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Briefing file

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(150) CONGRESS-DOMINICAN

WASHINGTON, JULY 19 (AP)-WILLIAM F. RABORN, DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (CIA), TESTIFIES TODAY IN THE SENATE PROBE OF U.S. ACTION IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC REVOLT.

THE CLOSED SESSIONS WERE BEGUN LAST WEEK BY THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE. CHAIRMAN J. W. FULBRIGHT, D-ARK., SAID THE PRIMARY GOAL IS TO FIND WHETHER ANY MISTAKES OF JUDGMENTS WERE MADE. RABORN, A RETIRED VICE ADMIRAL, TOOK OVER AS CIA HEAD ON APRIL 28, ONLY FOUR DAYS AFTER THE REVOLT BEGAN. THAT SAME NIGHT, PRESIDENT JOHNSON ORDERED AMERICAN TROOPS INTO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, SAYING THEY WERE NEEDED TO PROTECT U. S. AND OTHER FOREIGN NATIONALS THERE.

SUBSEQUENTLY, THE PRESIDENT INCREASED THE NUMBER OF U. S. TROOPS ATTRIBUTING HIS ACTION TO THE DANGER OF COMMUNIST INFLUENCE AMONG THE REVOLUTIONARIES.

IN TESTIMONY BEFORE THE COMMITTEE FRIDAY, W. TAPLEY BENNETT JR., THE U. S. AMBASSADOR TO THE CARIBBEAN NATION, SAID COMMUNISTS EXERTED A STRONG INFLUENCE OVER THE REVOLT FROM ITS VERY BEGINNING.

SR627AED

JUL 16 1965

UPI-138

(DOMINICAN)

WASHINGTON--CHAIRMAN J. WILLIAM FULBRIGHT, D-ARK., OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE SAID TODAY HE WAS NOT ENCOURAGED ABOUT PROSPECTS OF AN EARLY SETTLEMENT OF THE "VERY CHAOTIC SITUATION" IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

FULBRIGHT MADE THE STATEMENT AFTER A TWO-HOUR CLOSED DOOR SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE WITH U.S. AMBASSADOR W. TAPLEY BENNETT, JR., WHO RETURNED MONDAY FROM SANTO DOMINGO.

BENNETT WENT IMMEDIATELY FROM THE CAPITOL TO THE WHITE HOUSE FOR A MEETING WITH PRESIDENT JOHNSON AND ELLENORH BUCKER, U.S. AMBASSADOR TO THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES AND A MEMBER OF THE THREE-MAN OAS COMMITTEE WHICH HAS BEEN TRYING TO WORK OUT A SETTLEMENT.

BENNETT TOLD THE SENATORS HE FELT THERE HAD BEEN A "VERY STRONG COMMUNIST INFLUENCE" IN THE DOMINICAN REBEL MOVEMENT AND THAT IT WAS STILL PRESENT, FULBRIGHT SAID.

THE AMBASSADOR TOLD REPORTERS AFTER THE MEETING THAT ALTHOUGH THERE WERE STILL COMMUNISTS IN THE REBEL MOVEMENT, BECAUSE OF U.S. ACTIONS THEY WERE "LESS CAPABLE" OF EXERTING INFLUENCE.

BENNETT TESTIFIED IN THE THIRD DAY OF THE COMMITTEE'S INQUIRY INTO ALL ASPECTS OF THE DOMINICAN CRISIS. ADM. WILLIAM F. HARPOON, DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (CIA), WILL BE HEARD MONDAY.

7/16--DPG:SPD

JULY 19, 1965

UPI-93

ADD 1 DOMINICAN, WASHINGTON (UPI-92)

RABORN, A RETIRED ADMIRAL WHO TOOK OVER THE SUPER-SECRET CIA POST ONLY A SHORT TIME BEFORE THE DOMINICAN CRISIS FLARED UP IN LATE APRIL, MET WITH THE COMMITTEE BEHIND CLOSED DOORS FOR THREE HOURS AND 10 MINUTES.

IN AN APPARENT EFFORT TO EVADE WAITING NEWSMEN, RABORN SLIPPED OUT THROUGH AN OFFICE ADJOINING THE HEARING ROOM, DOWN A STAIRWAY TO THE CAPITOL BASEMENT AND BACK UP TO THE STREET EXIT BY ELEVATOR.

"I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY," HE TOLD A REPORTER.

FULBRIGHT SAID RABORN'S TESTIMONY WOUND UP THE FIRST PHASE OF THE COMMITTEE'S INQUIRY BUT THAT OTHER WITNESSES WILL BE CALLED. NO DATES HAVE BEEN SET FOR FURTHER HEARINGS, PENDING A SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE TOMORROW.

THE ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT MADE IT CLEAR THAT MEMBERS HAD A "GOOD MANY DIFFERENCES OF OPINION OF A TRADITIONAL CHARACTER" ABOUT THE SITUATION.

SEN. STUART SYMINGTON, D-MO., TOLD NEWSMEN THAT RABORN GAVE "ADDITIONAL IRREFUTABLE EVIDENCE THAT THE REBEL MOVEMENT WAS BEING TAKEN OVER BY TRAINED COMMUNISTS FROM CUBA, THE SOVIET UNION AND CHINA."

7/19--GE155P

UPI-101

ADD 2 DOMINICAN, WASHINGTON

SYMINGTON SAID THERE WAS "NO QUESTION" THAT "WE'D HAVE ANOTHER CUBA" IN THE UNITED STATES HAD NOT ACTED PROMPTLY IN SENDING IN MILITARY FORCES.

SEN. KARL E. MUNDT, R-S.D., AGREED. HE SAID RABORN AGREED WITH EARLIER WITNESSES "THAT THE COMMUNISTS WOULD HAVE TAKEN THIS THING OVER AND OUR ACTION PREVENTED IT."

BUT MORSE CHARGED IN A STATEMENT AFTER THE HEARING THAT "THE PROPAGANDA ALIBI WILL BE THAT OUR COURSE OF ACTION IS NECESSARY TO PUT DOWN COMMUNISM." HE SAID "I WANT TO SEE COMMUNISM DEFEATED, TOO, BUT IT MUST BE DONE THROUGH OUR HELPING THE PEOPLE DEVELOP ECONOMIC FREEDOM AND NOT THROUGH OUR SUPPORT OF MILITARY DICTATORSHIPS. BULLETS WILL NOT DEFEAT COMMUNISM, BUT BREAD WILL."

MORSE SAID THE DOMINICAN SITUATION UNDERSCORED HIS FEARS THAT IN LATIN AMERICAN CONFLICTS BETWEEN MILITARY LEADERS SEEKING GREATER POWER AND CIVILIAN LEADERS WANTING MORE SELF-GOVERNMENT, THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE "FOUND ON THE SIDE OF THE MILITARY."

UNDER QUESTIONING, FULBRIGHT SAID THE COMMITTEE HAD MADE NO DECISION ON POSSIBLY INVITING NON-AMERICANS TO TESTIFY IN THE INQUIRY. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE COMMITTEE TRADITIONALLY DOES NOT HEAR FOREIGNERS IN FORMAL MEETINGS AND HAS NO AUTHORITY TO COMPEL THEIR TESTIMONY. BUT IT OFTEN MEETS WITH THEM INFORMALLY IF MEMBERS FEEL SUCH SESSIONS WOULD BE HELPFUL.

7/19--DP217PD